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MEL BAY PRESENTS

NOTE READING STUDIES FOR BASS

by *Arnold Evans*



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Here we introduce the dotted half rest, which equals 3 beats:

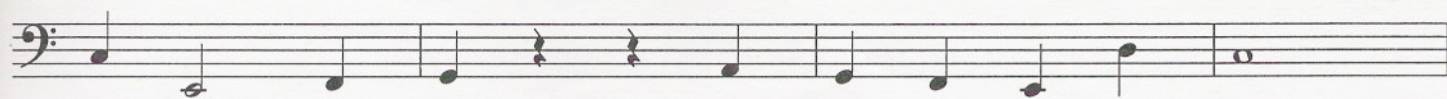
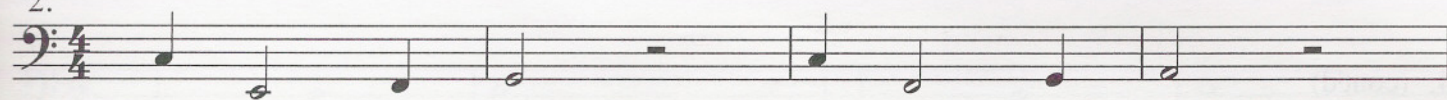


ETUDES

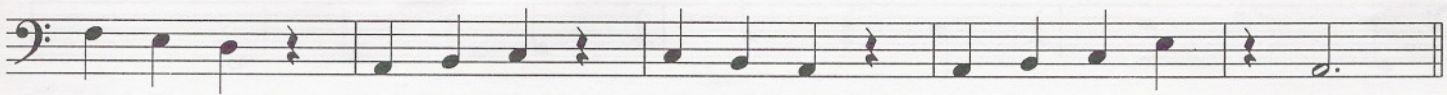
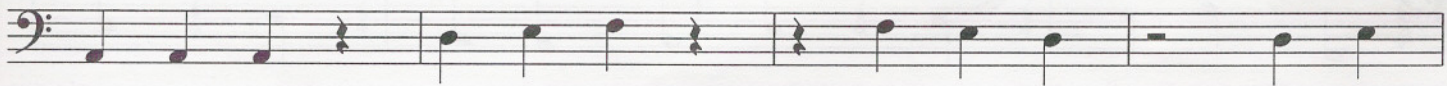
(Using *natural* notes, various rhythms and rests)



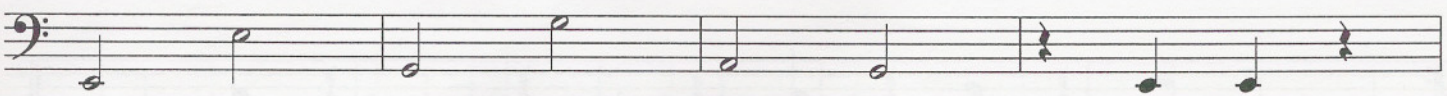
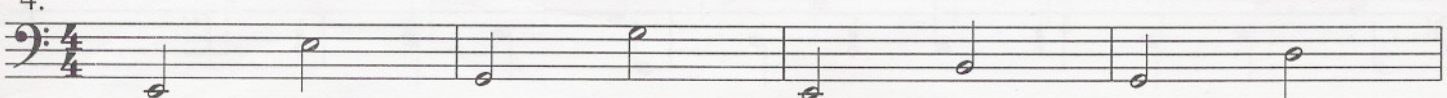
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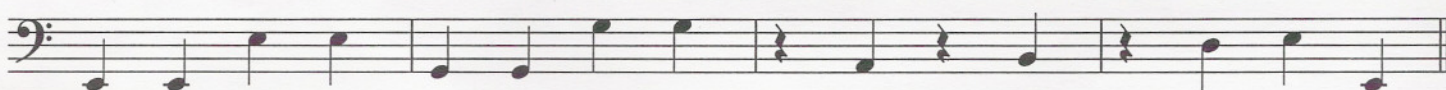
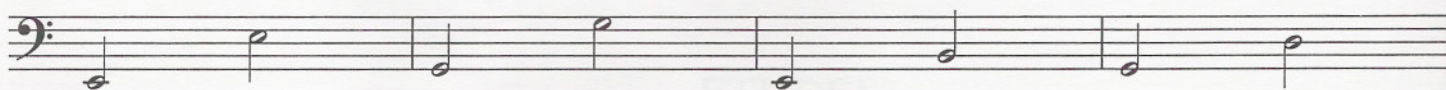
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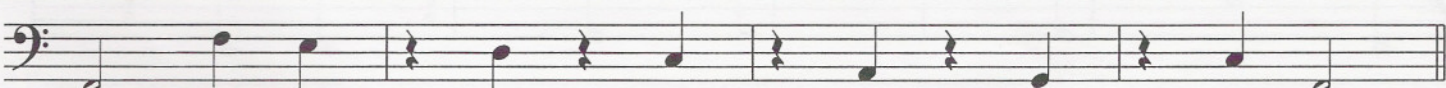
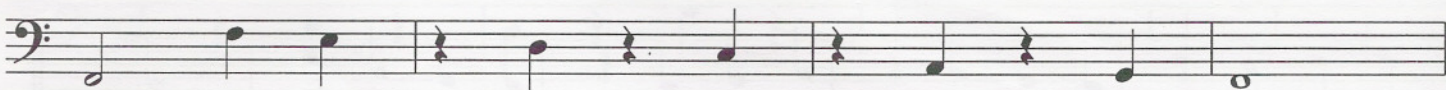
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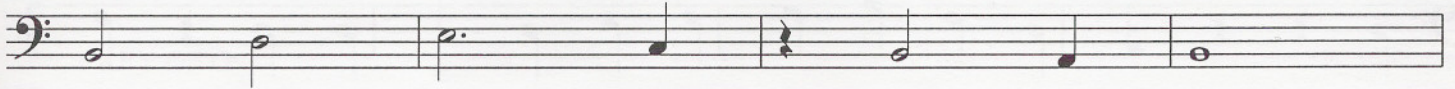
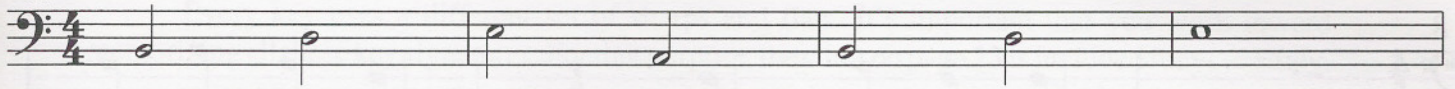
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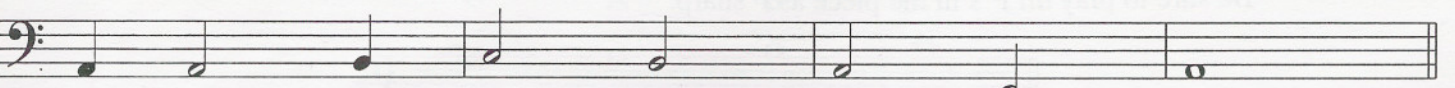
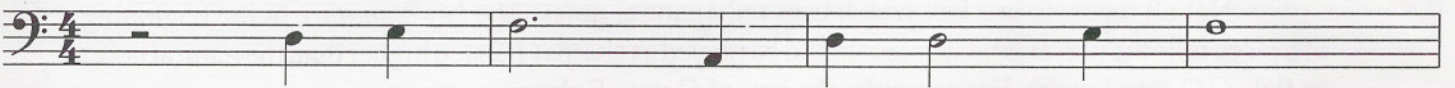
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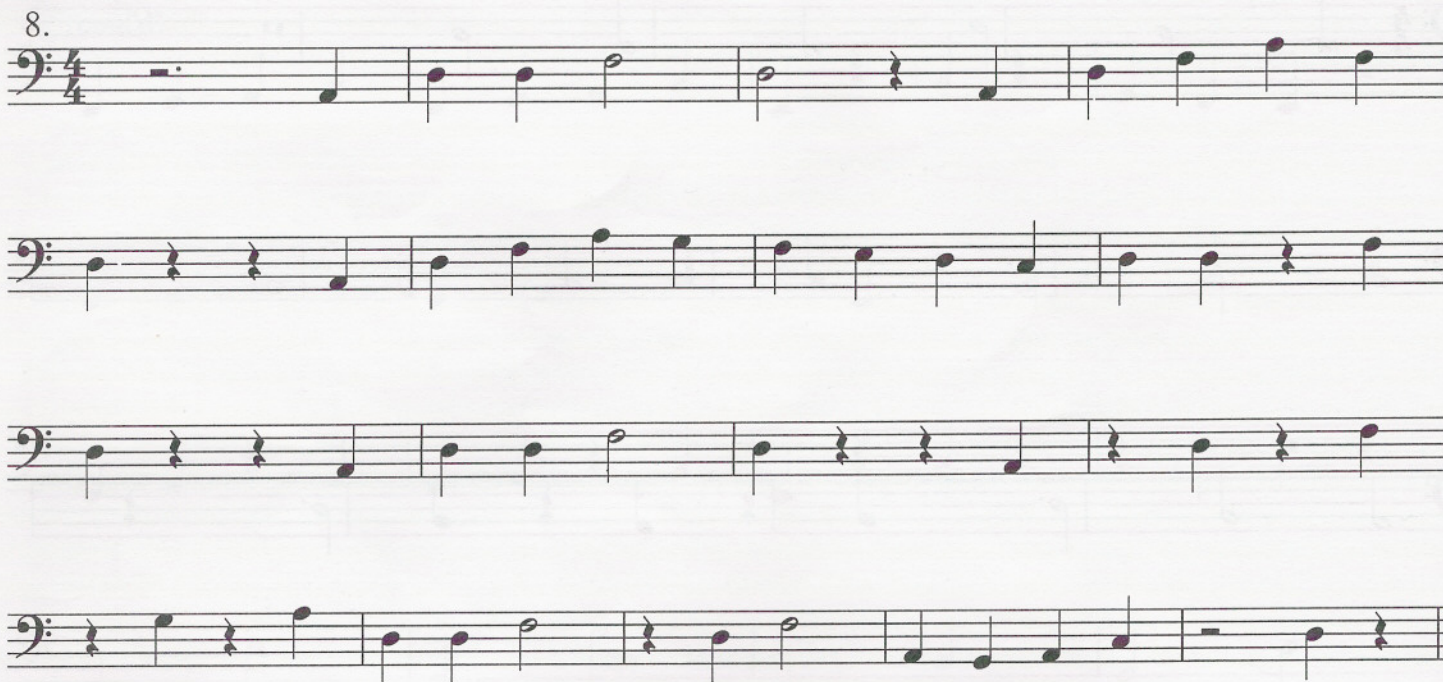


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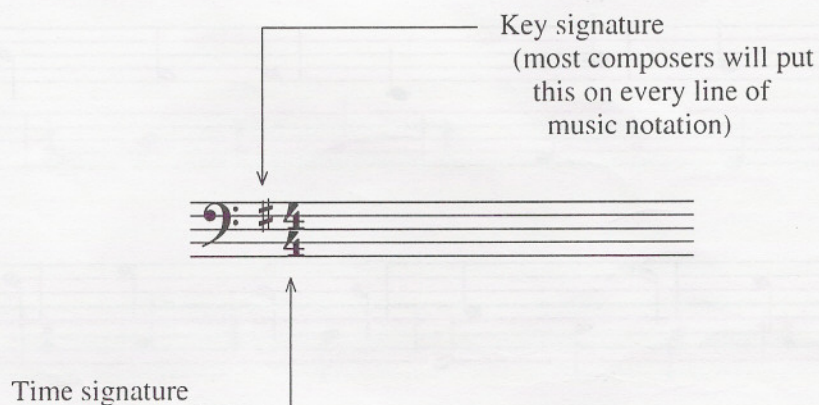
7.





KEYS & KEY SIGNATURES

Not all music is in a key which uses only natural notes. The *key signature* at the beginning of a piece tells the player which notes should be played as sharps (1/2 step higher than the natural note) or flats (1/2 step lower). For example, the key of G uses F sharp:



Be sure to play *all* F's in the piece as F sharp.

Every key uses a different set of sharps and flats. It's important that you work toward memorizing all these key signatures. For that purpose, the chart on page 23 is included for your study.

ETUDES USING SIMPLE KEY SIGNATURES

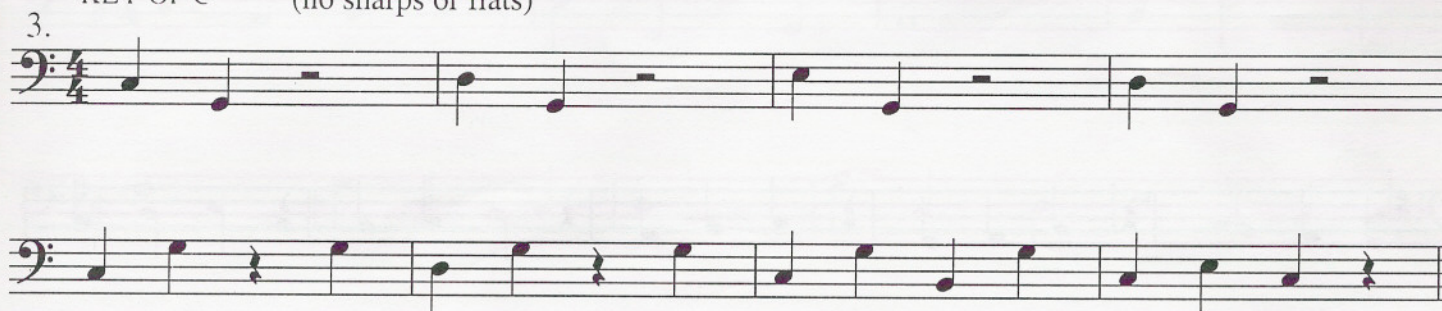
KEY OF G



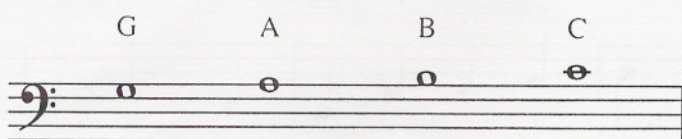
KEY OF F



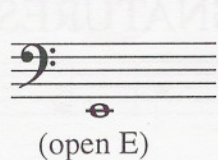
KEY OF C (no sharps or flats)



Here we start to introduce notes up to C on the G string.



You should be able to play all the notes between the open E and this mid-range C without straying too far from your lowest position, so we'll confine our reading studies to this range for now. Consult your teacher or your technique method book if you're unsure about what fingerings to use.



KEY OF G

4.

4.

4.

4.

4.

5.



6.



KEY OF B $\flat$

7.



KEY OF C

8.



How To Determine the Key of a Piece of Music

There are two clues useful in determining what the actual key of a piece of music is:

1) The key signature: The number of sharps or flats tells you that the piece falls into either a certain major key, or its relative minor key.

2) The notes in the beginning and ending of the piece will usually emphasize the tonic, or key tonality.

How To Read the Key Signature

Count the number of sharps or flats in the key signature. If there are none, consider the piece to be in C, or its relative minor, A minor. Use Chart 1 below to find the key according to the number of sharps or flats. (It is important to memorize the number of sharps or flats per key, so that your recognition of key signatures will become second nature.)

Chart 1

Number of Sharps or Flats Per Major Key

Sharps:	1 sharp	G	Flats:	1 flat	F
	2 sharps	D		2 flats	B $\flat$
	3 sharps	A		3 flats	E $\flat$
	4 sharps	E		4 flats	A $\flat$
	5 sharps	B		5 flats	D $\flat$
	6 sharps	F $\sharp$		6 flats	G $\flat$
	7 sharps	C $\sharp$		7 flats	C $\flat$

Chart 2

Order of Sharps and Flats

Sharps or flats are always presented in a specific order:

Order of Sharps: F $\sharp$, C $\sharp$, G $\sharp$, D $\sharp$, A $\sharp$, E $\sharp$, B $\sharp$ (ascends by perfect 5th)

Order of Flats: B $\flat$, E $\flat$, A $\flat$, D $\flat$, G $\flat$, C $\flat$, F $\flat$ (ascends by perfect 4th)

RELATIVE MINOR KEYS

Every major key has a relative minor key which uses the same key signature. This key is located three 1/2 steps below the major key.

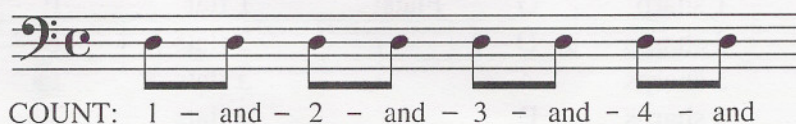
e.g., C : Relative Minor Am

NOTE: Not every piece of music is written with a key signature. Very difficult pieces which move within several keys often dispense with the key signature and depend on individual accidentals instead. The same is true of atonal and extended-tonal music.

Occasionally, a composer will use a key signature which seems foreign to the tonality of the piece. Usually this will be because the piece is written in an unusual Mode. (Modes are special scales which invoke unusual tonalities and chord relationships.)

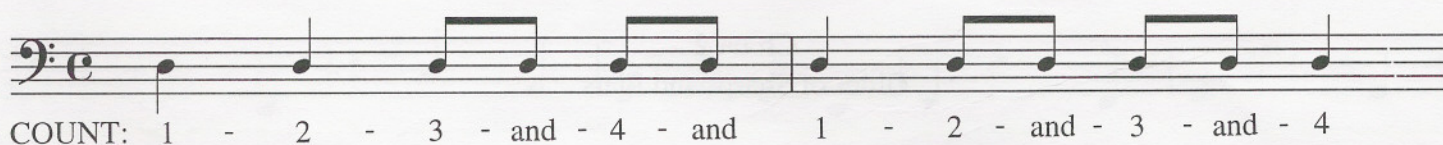
EIGHTH NOTES

Eighth notes are played half as long as quarter notes; e.g., two eighth notes fit in the time-space of one quarter note.



Eighth notes can be written singly:  or in groups of two, three, or four, depending on the particular piece of music.

Play:



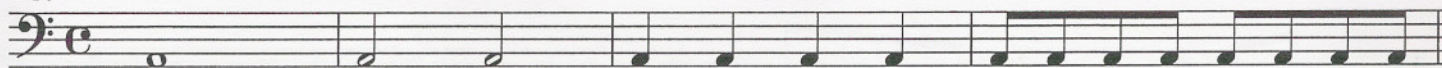
An eighth rest looks like this  and takes up the same time-space as an eighth note.

Play:



Mixed rhythm exercises:

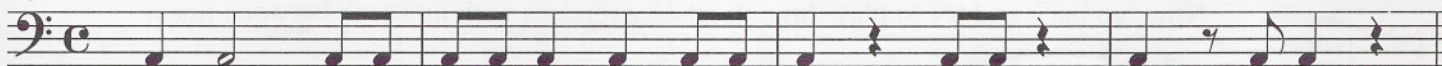
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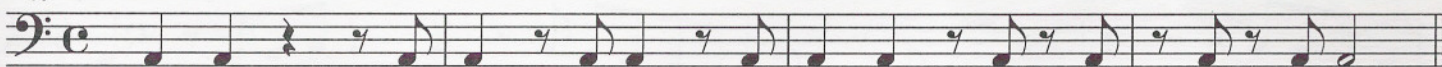
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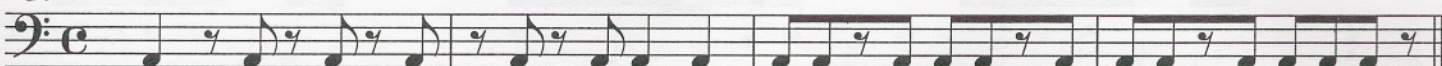
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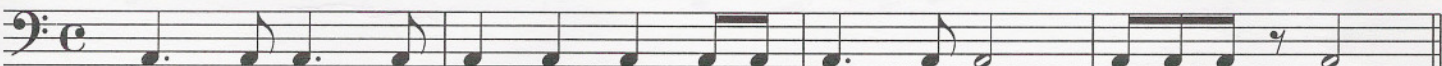


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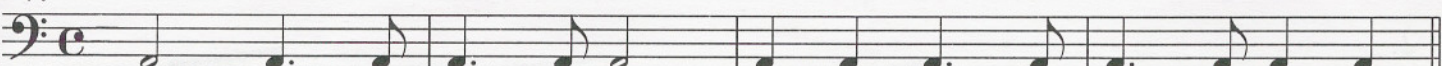


Here we introduce the dotted quarter note  which assumes 1 1/2 times its normal duration, equalling one quarter note plus one eighth note.

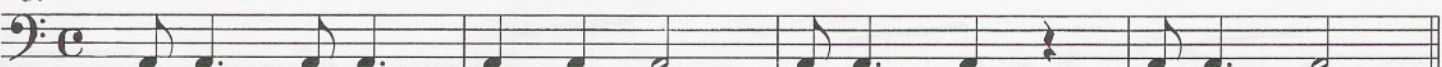
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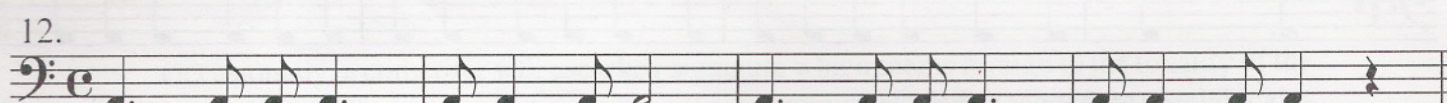
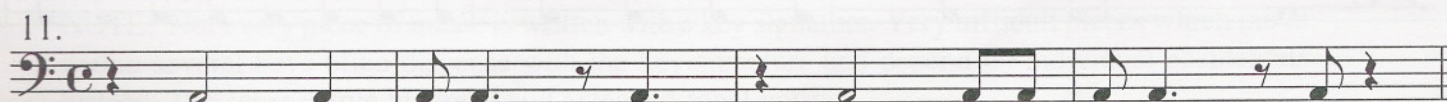
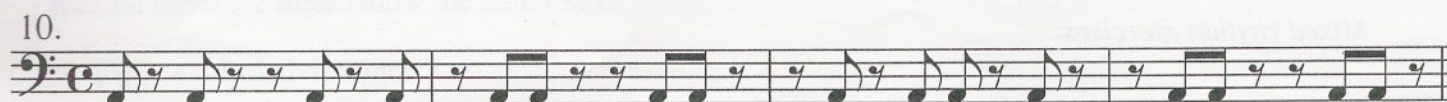
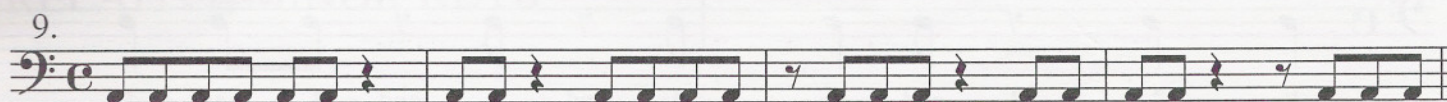


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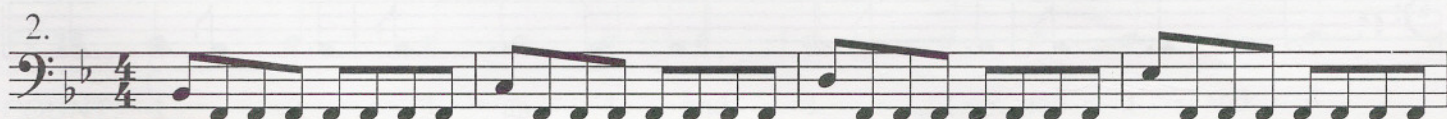
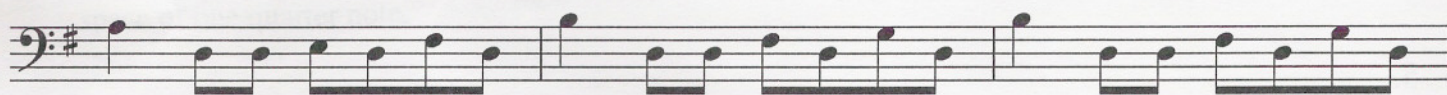
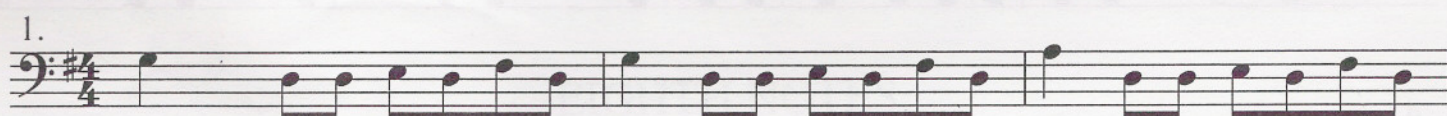


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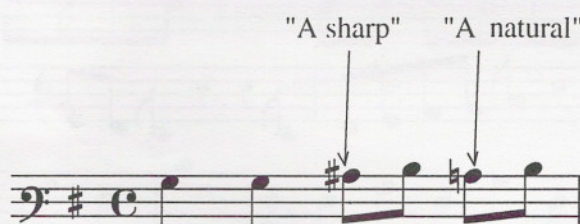
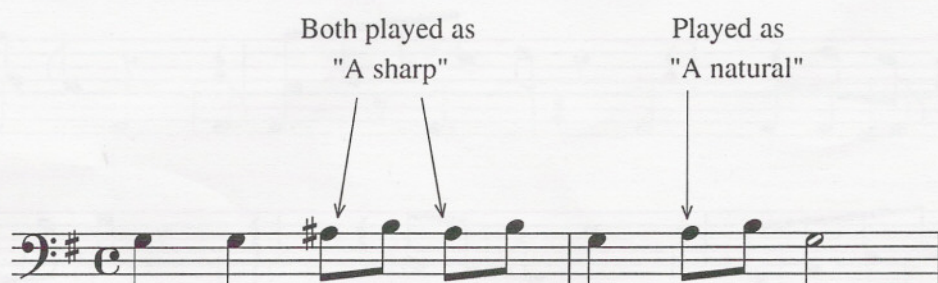
Etudes: Now, go back and try to play through all 12 exercises with no break between lines.



ACCIDENTALS

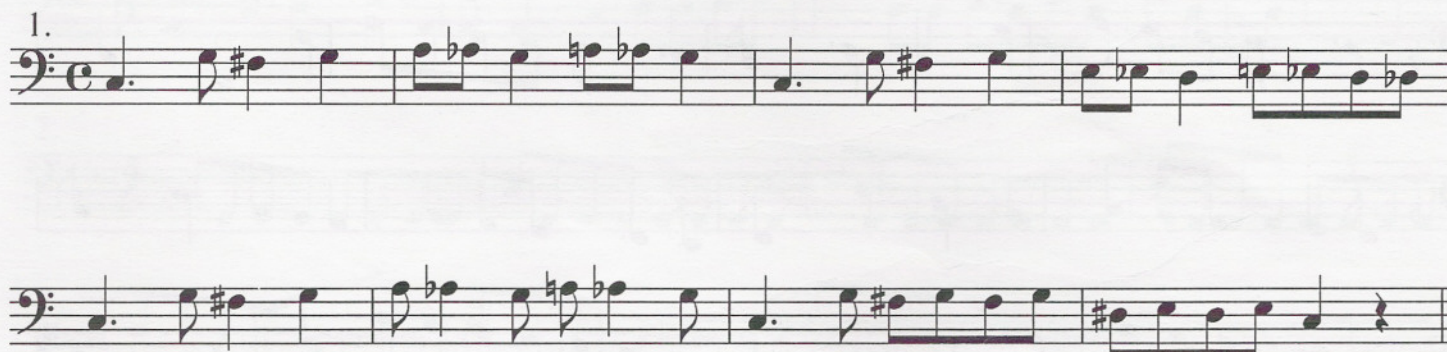
An *accidental* is a sharp (#), flat (b) or natural sign (♮) used in a place other than the key signature. When an accidental appears in a measure, it is in effect until the end of the measure, unless cancelled by another accidental:

For example:

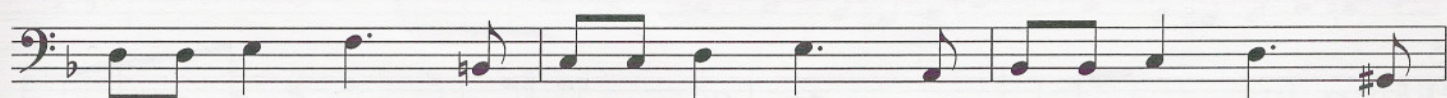
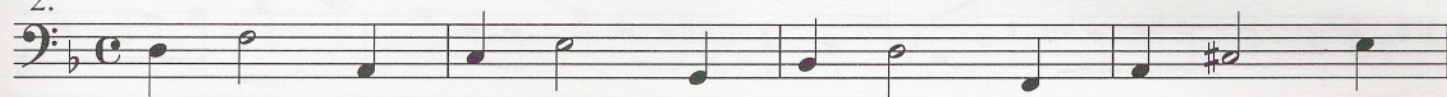


Learn to scan ahead in your sight reading to try and pick out any upcoming accidentals. It helps to always have your eyes one measure ahead of what you're actually playing. This is also useful for picking out complex rhythmic figures.

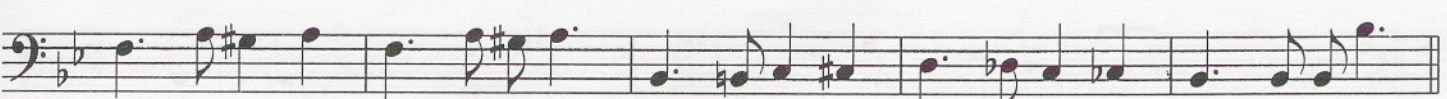
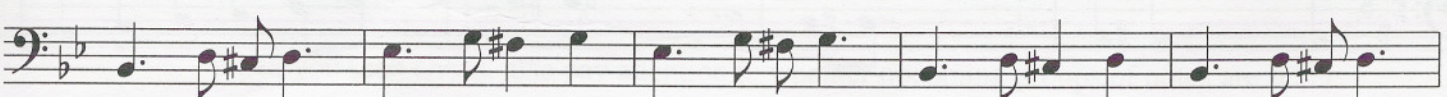
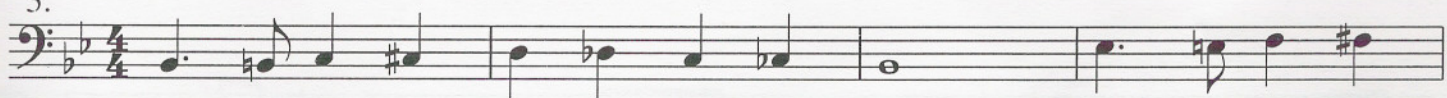
Etudes:

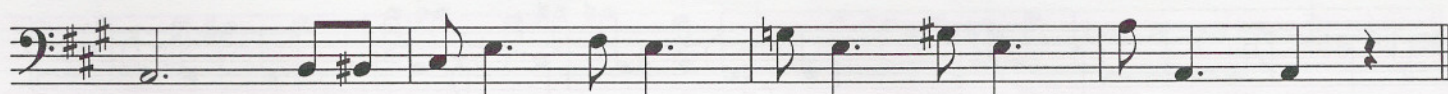
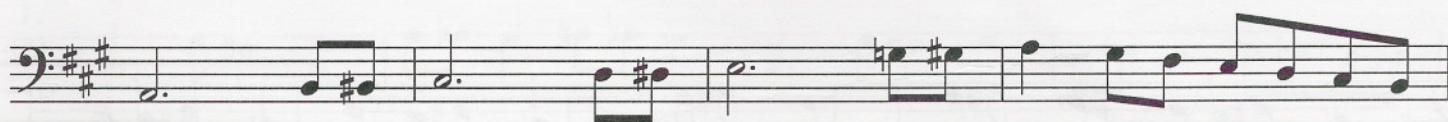
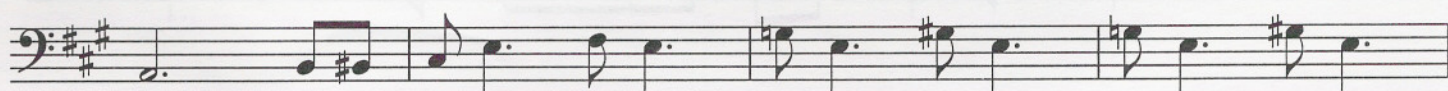
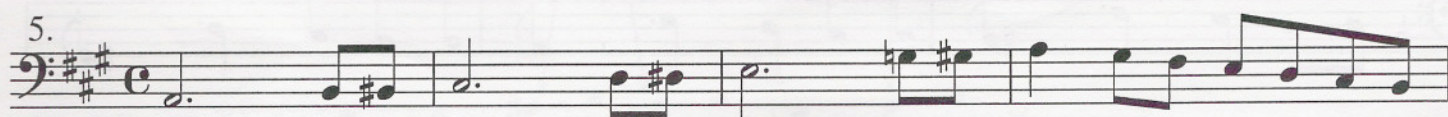
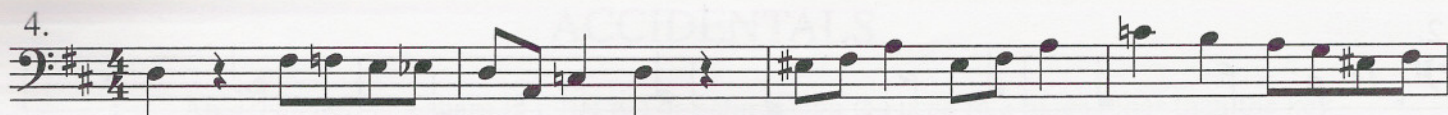


2.



3.







Here we introduce some different time signatures. The first is 3/4 time, in which the music follows a three-beat pulse. In this time signature, as before, the quarter note gets one beat, but now there are three beats per measure instead of four.

Play:

COUNT: 1 - 2 - 3 1 - 2 - 3 1 - 2 - 3 ETC.

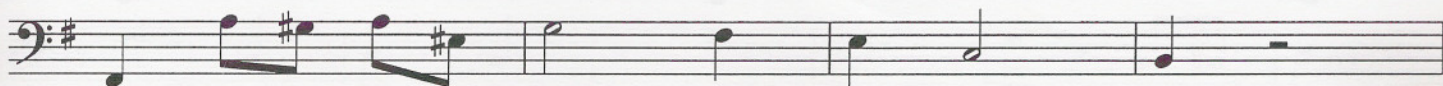
1 - 2 - and - 3

1 - and - 2 - 3 ETC.

Etudes:

1.

2.



3.



Notice that the next piece begins with a "pickup" note. Traditionally, the last measure of the piece is shortened by the value of this pickup.

4.

Exercise 4 is a four-measure piece in 3/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). It begins with a pickup note (half note D4) followed by three measures of music. The notes are: D4 (half), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (half), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (half), C#5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The final measure is shortened by the value of the pickup note.

Here are a few studies written in 2/4 time. This is a time signature in which the music follows a two-beat pulse, with the quarter note, as usual, representing one beat. Most pieces in 2/4 time are played at a rather fast tempo.

1.

Exercise 1 is a three-measure piece in 2/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). The notes are: D4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C#5 (quarter), D5 (half), C#5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). The final measure is shortened by the value of the pickup note.

2.

Exercise 2 consists of six measures of music in bass clef, 2/4 time, with one flat (B-flat). The notes are: G2 (half), F2-G2 (quarter), E2 (half), D2 (quarter), C2 (half), and B1 (quarter).

3.

Exercise 3 consists of six measures of music in bass clef, 2/4 time, with two sharps (F# and C#). The notes are: G3 (half), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (quarter), C3 (half), and B2 (quarter).

4.

Exercise 4 consists of six measures of music in bass clef, 2/4 time, with two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are: G2 (half), F2 (quarter), E2 (half), D2 (quarter), C2 (half), and B1 (quarter).

TIES

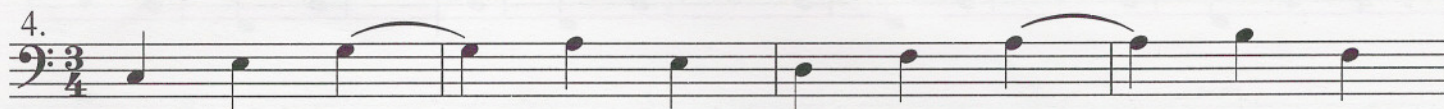
A "tie" is a curved line connecting two or more notes of the same pitch. This connection serves to increase the duration of the original note.

For example :



In the example above, the "F" is sounded on "4" of the first bar, but is carried through "1" of the second bar.

Exercises: (use metronome)



TRIPLETS

A triplet is a group of *three* notes that takes up the time-space which *two* notes normally would. For example, a set of eighth-note triplets  takes up the same time-space as a pair of normal eighth-notes.

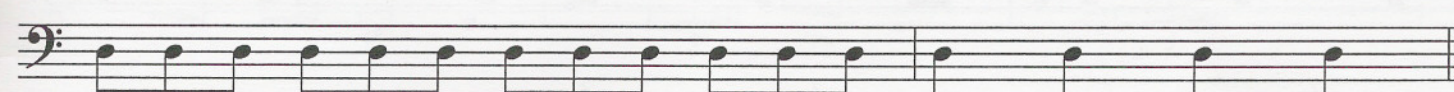
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Play:

SLOWLY

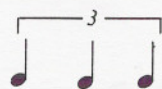


COUNT : 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 1 - and - 2 - and - 3 - and - 4 - and

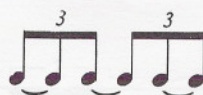


Tri - pa - let (1) Tri - pa - let (2) Tri - pa - let (3) Tri - pa - let (4) 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

Eighth-note triplets are easy to play because the set of triplets fits right into one beat, and doesn't disturb the pulse. Quarter-note triplets are more difficult, however, because the straight quarter-note pulse of the music is interrupted. To make the playing of quarter-note triplets easier, think of them as eighth-note triplets tied together:

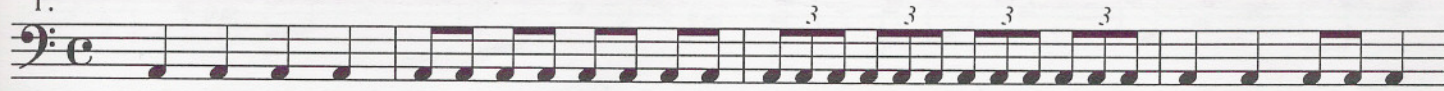


EQUALS



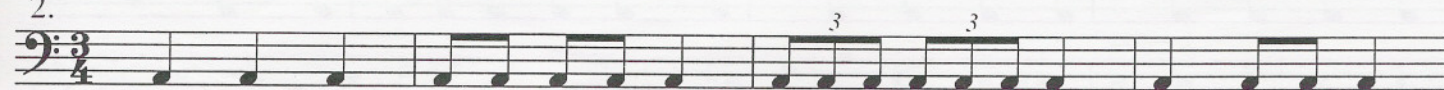
Play the following rhythm exercises slowly at first, to gain a thorough understanding of these new rhythms. When you begin to feel comfortable, quicken the pace and concentrate on the "feel" of each exercise.

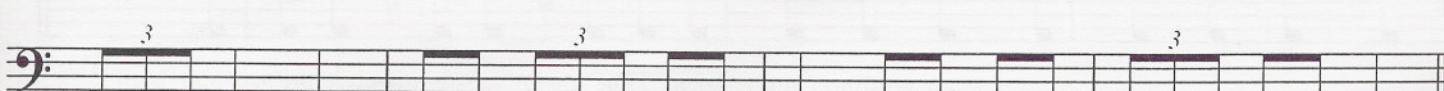
1.





2.





3.

4.

5.

6.

ETUDES

Play the following etudes with your metronome. Try to play each piece at the tempo marked above the beginning.

1. $\text{♩} = 96$

Etude 1 is written in bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign. The first measure contains a quarter note (F#4) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G#4, A4, B4). The second measure contains a quarter note (C5) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D5, E5, F#5). The third measure contains a quarter note (G#4) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (A4, B4, C5). The fourth measure contains a quarter note (D5) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (E5, F#5, G#5). The fifth measure contains a quarter note (A5) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (B5, C6, B5). The sixth measure contains a quarter note (G#5) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (F#5, E5, D5). The seventh measure contains a quarter note (F#4) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (E4, D4, C4). The eighth measure contains a quarter note (B3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (A3, G#3, F#3). The ninth measure contains a quarter note (E3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (D3, C3, B2). The tenth measure contains a quarter note (A2) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (G#2, F#2, E2). The piece ends with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket.

2. $\text{♩} = 120$

Etude 2 is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a repeat sign. The first measure contains a quarter note (Bb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Cb3, Bb3, Ab3). The second measure contains a quarter note (Gb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Fb3, Eb3, Db3). The third measure contains a quarter note (Eb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Db3, Cb3, Bb3). The fourth measure contains a quarter note (Cb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Bb3, Ab3, Gb3). The fifth measure contains a quarter note (Bb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Ab3, Gb3, Fb3). The sixth measure contains a quarter note (Ab3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Gb3, Fb3, Eb3). The seventh measure contains a quarter note (Gb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Fb3, Eb3, Db3). The eighth measure contains a quarter note (Fb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Eb3, Db3, Cb3). The ninth measure contains a quarter note (Eb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Db3, Cb3, Bb3). The tenth measure contains a quarter note (Cb3) followed by a triplet of eighth notes (Bb3, Ab3, Gb3). The piece ends with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket.

* Play the section between these repeat dots twice, then continue on.

3. $\text{♩} = 92$

3

3

3

3

4. $\text{♩} = 104$

3

3

3

3

The following etude is written in 6/4 time, which features a quarter note pulse which generally feels like 4 plus 2.

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

5. $\text{♩} = 104$

6. $\text{♩} = 76$

When a piece has a four-beat pulse based on an eighth-note triplet rhythm, it is often written as 12/8. The following etude, when properly played, will sound exactly like #6 above.

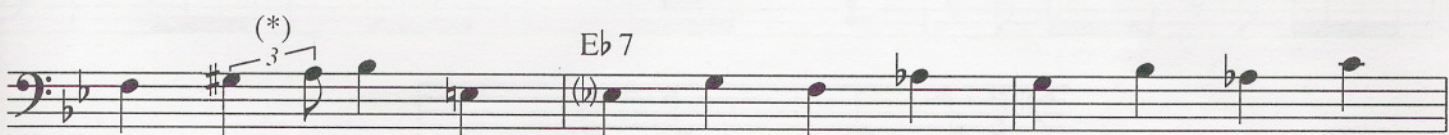
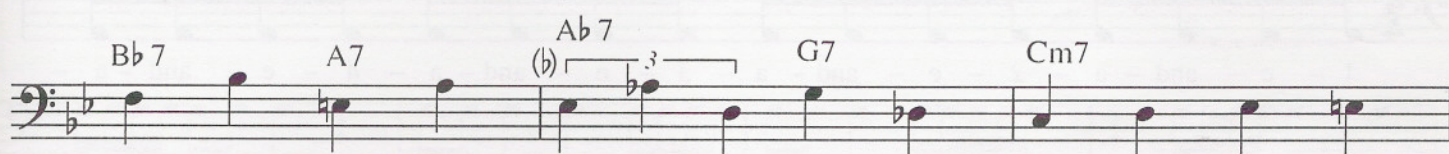
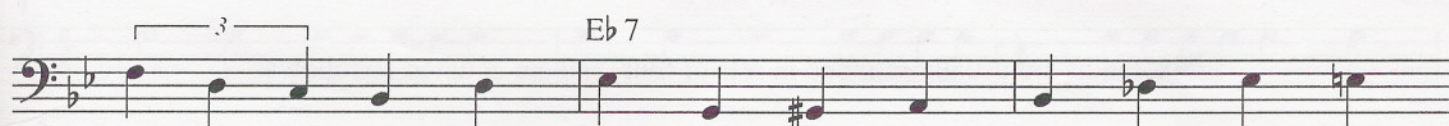
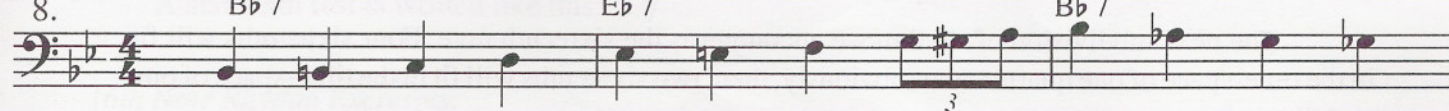
7. $\text{♩} = 76$

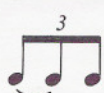
7. (cont'd)



(Jazz Blues)

8. ♩ = 120 B♭ 7



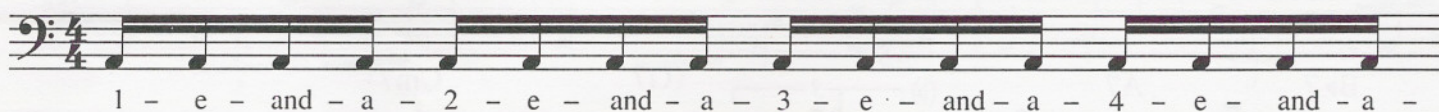
* Sounds like 

Chord symbols have been added to the previous etude so that you might experiment playing along with a chordal instrument. You should begin to analyze the pieces in this book, so you'll develop a theoretical understanding of the music you're playing.

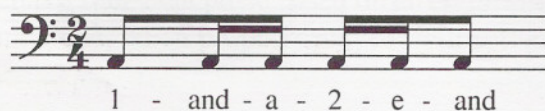
SIXTEENTH-NOTE RHYTHMS

The next subdivision of rhythm we encounter is the sixteenth note. Four sixteenths will fit in the time-space of one quarter note (obviously, then, two sixteenths will fit in the time-space of one eighth note).

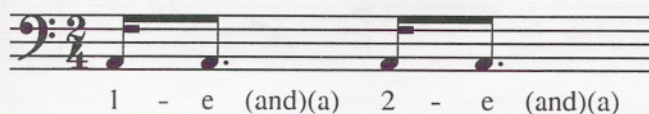
Sixteenths are usually grouped in sets of four, and are counted as follows:



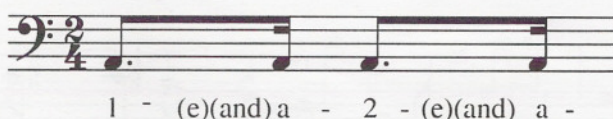
Groups of eighths and sixteenths are also written together.
For example:



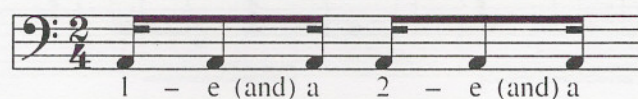
It's important that you become familiar with the dotted eighth/ sixteenth combination, which is extremely common in all types of music.



It also occurs in reverse:



Here's a sixteenth/eighth combination you're likely to encounter in syncopated music:



A sixteenth rest is written like this: 

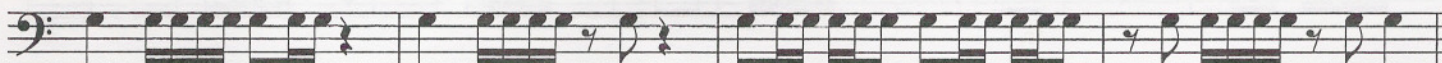
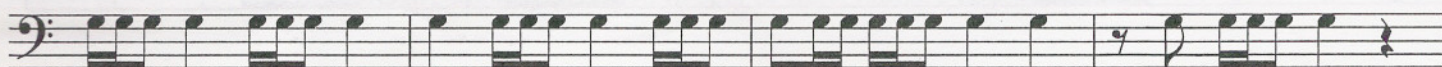
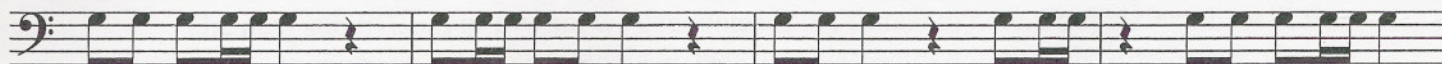
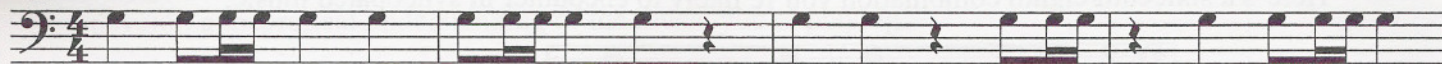
16th Note Rhythm Exercises:

1.

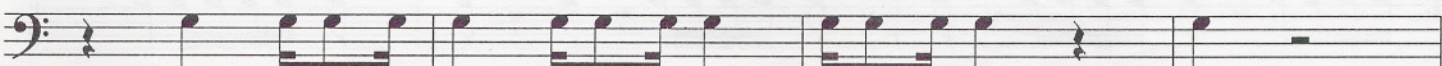
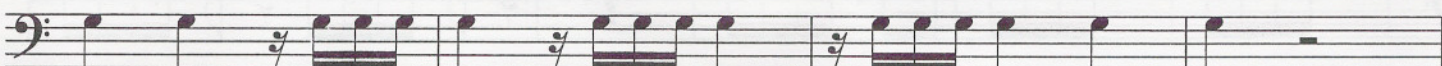
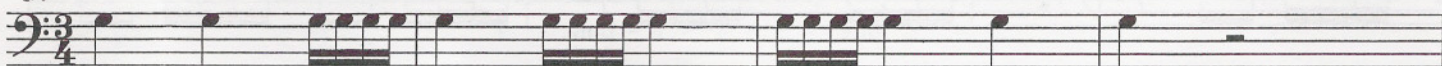
The exercises consist of five lines of musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. Each line contains four measures of music. The exercises focus on various combinations of 16th notes, 8th notes, and quarter notes, often using syncopation. The first line starts with a quarter note, followed by eighth notes, then a 16th note rest followed by eighth notes, and ends with a quarter note. The subsequent lines continue with similar rhythmic patterns, including groups of 16th notes, eighth notes, and quarter notes, with some measures featuring syncopated rhythms.

Proceed to the next exercise only when you can play the preceding one accurately (throughout this section).

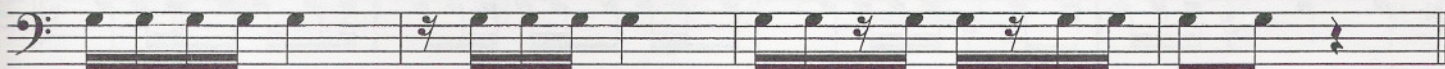
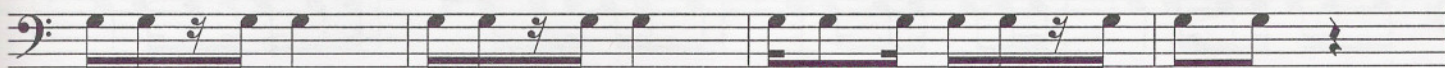
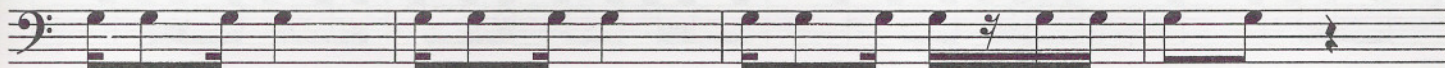
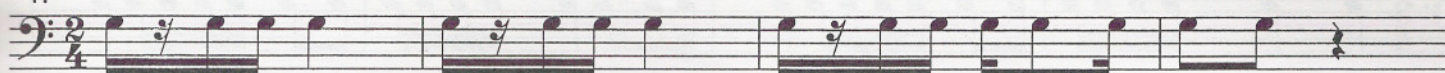
2.



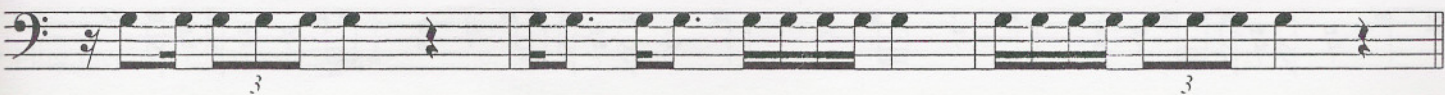
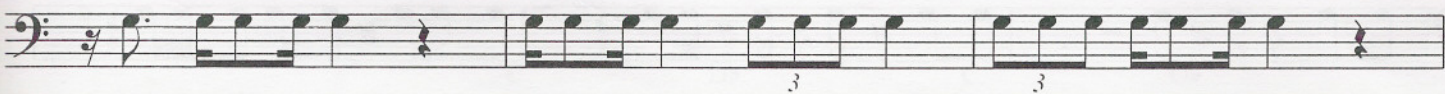
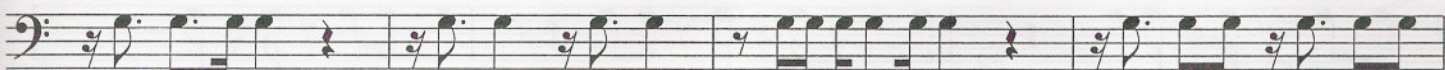
3.



4.



5.



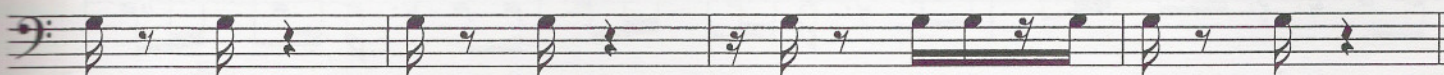
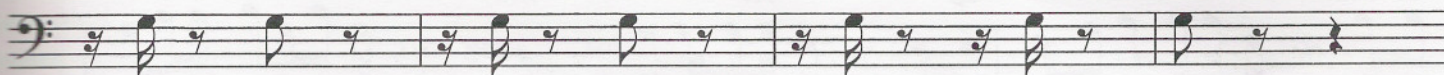
6.

Exercise 6 is written in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, then changes to a bass clef. The music features eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs and ties.

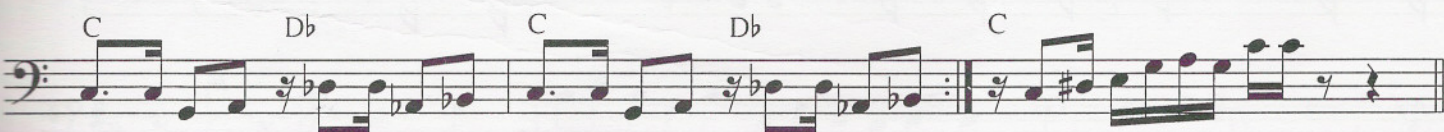
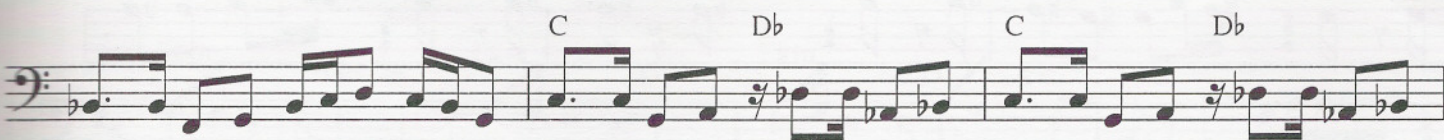
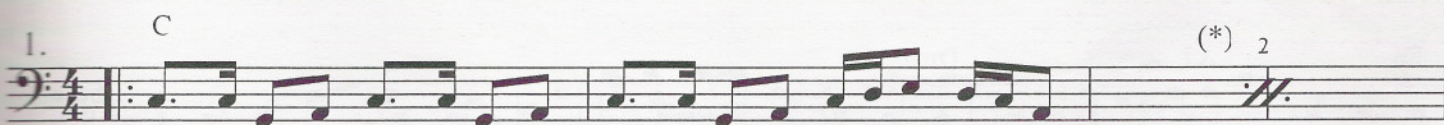
7.

Exercise 7 is written in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music. The music features eighth and sixteenth note patterns with slurs and ties.

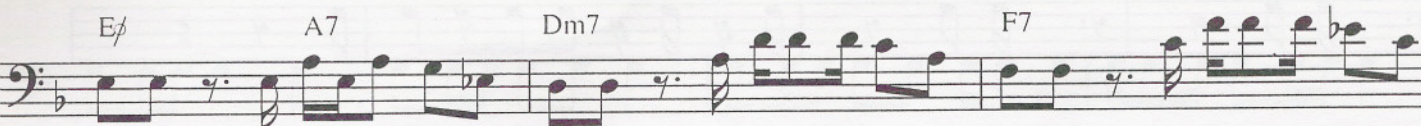
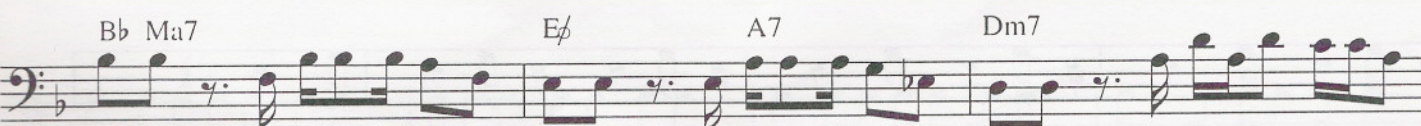
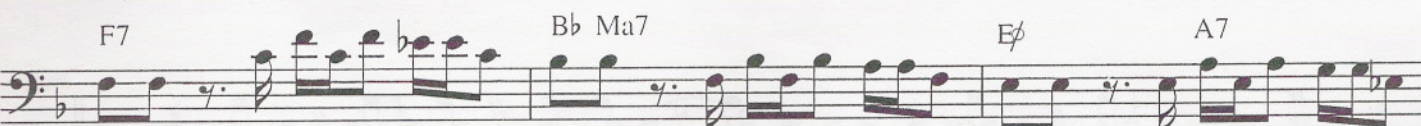
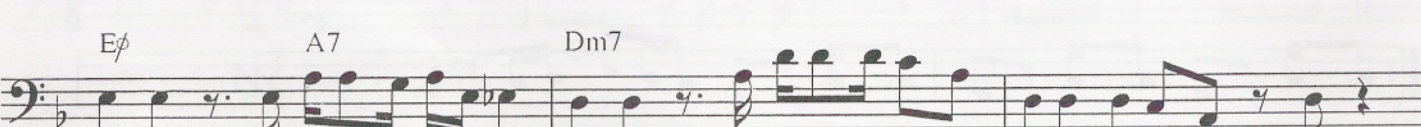
8.



Etudes using 16th Note Rhythms:



* Play last two measures again

2.      

3. G7

Bass line for exercise 3, measures 1-4. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first measure has a G7 chord. The second measure has a Bb7 chord. The third measure has a G7 chord. The fourth measure has a G7 chord.

Bb7

Bass line for exercise 3, measures 5-8. The fifth measure has a Bb7 chord. The sixth measure has a G7 chord. The seventh measure has a G7 chord. The eighth measure has a G7 chord.

G7 Eb7

Bass line for exercise 3, measures 9-12. The ninth measure has a G7 chord. The tenth measure has a G7 chord. The eleventh measure has a G7 chord. The twelfth measure has a G7 chord.

A♭ Ab7 G7

Bass line for exercise 3, measures 13-16. The thirteenth measure has an A♭ chord. The fourteenth measure has an Ab7 chord. The fifteenth measure has a G7 chord. The sixteenth measure has a G7 chord.

4. E7

A7 E7

B7 E7

5. Bm

F#m G A F#m G F#m G A Bm

6. B♭ 7 A♭ 7 B♭ 7 A♭ 7

G♭ 7 E7 F7

B♭ 7 A♭ 7 B♭ 7

A♭ 7 G♭ 7 E7

F7 B♭

“SWING FEEL”

In *swing*, or *straight-ahead jazz*, eighth notes are played with a triplet inflection. In moderate tempo pieces, each pair of eighth notes is played like an eighth-note triplet with the first two notes tied.

Written: or But Sounds:

It is traditional to *accent* (place additional emphasis on) the second note of each group.

Written: Sounds:

The faster the tempo, the less triplet inflection will be appropriate. In “*Be-Bop*” and other styles of “*up*” jazz, there is virtually no triplet feel at times, because the eighth notes occur so quickly that there is really no time-space for stretching the first of each two notes.

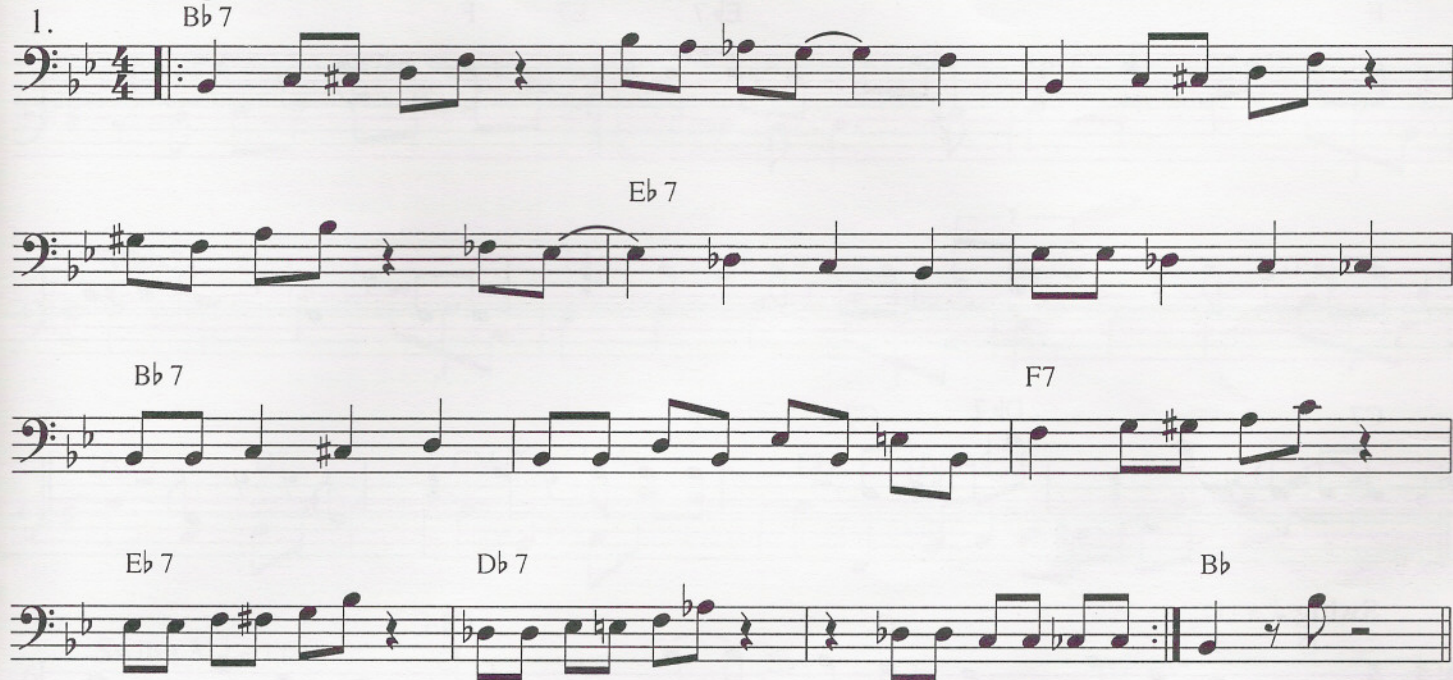
When playing swing-feel pieces, be sure to treat rests in the same way as regular notes.

Written:  Sounds: 

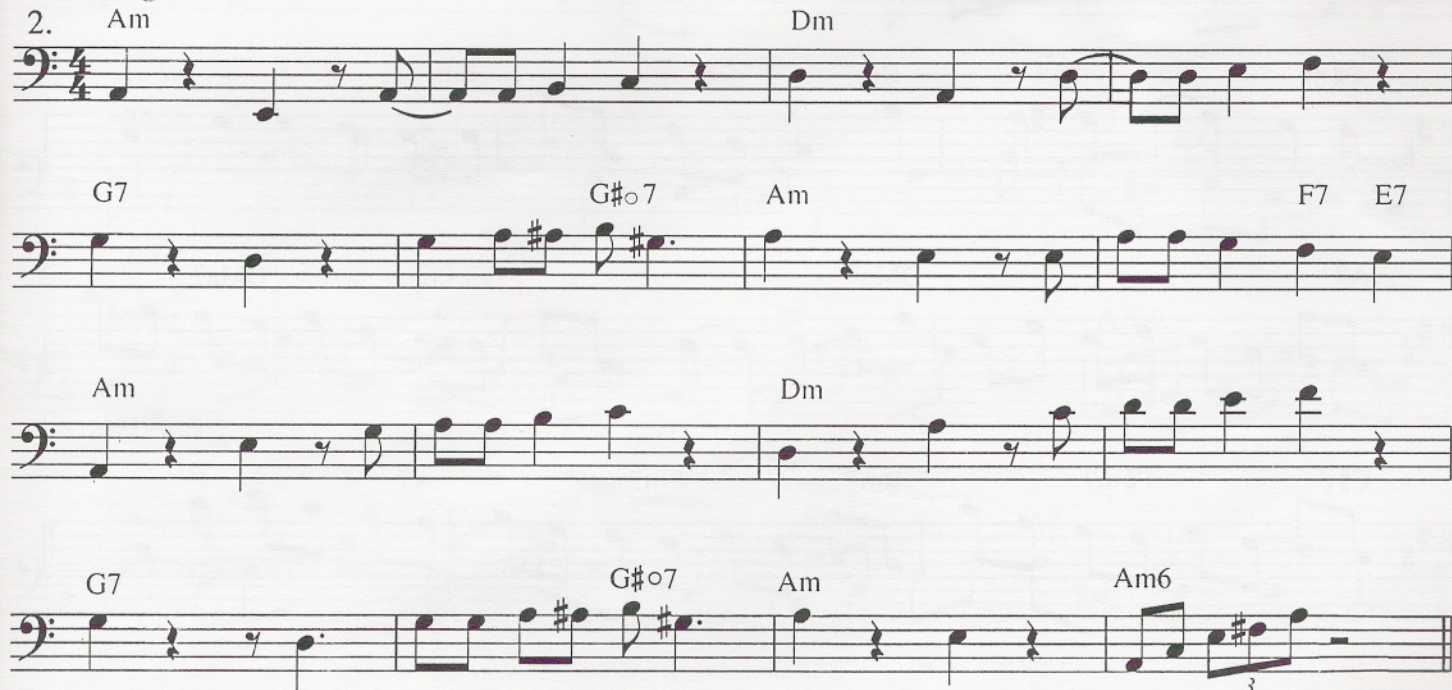
Practicing with your metronome clicking on the second and fourth beats of the bar will help your swing concept.

Studies in Swing Feel

1. **Swing** ♩ = 132
B♭ 7



2. **Swing** ♩ = 140
Am Dm



3. Swing ♩ = 120

Exercise 3 is a bass line in F major, 4/4 time, swing feel, 120 bpm. The exercise consists of 16 measures across four staves. The chords indicated are: F, C7, Db7, C7, F, Eb7, E7, F, C7, Db7, C7, F, C7, Db7, C7, F.

4. Swing ♩ = 112

Exercise 4 is a bass line in D major, 4/4 time, swing feel, 112 bpm. The exercise consists of 16 measures across four staves. The chords indicated are: D, G, C#o, F#m, Bm, Em, A7, DMa7, DMa7, GMa7, C#o, F#m7, Bm7, Em7, A7, D.

5. **Swing** $\text{♩} = 100$

Am7 D7 GMa7 CMa7 F#ø B7b9

Em Am7 D7 GMa7 CMa7

F#ø B7b9 Em Am7 D7

GMa7 CMa7 F#ø B7b9 Em (E7)

Am7 D7 GMa7 CMa7 F#ø B7b9 Em

6. **Swing** $3 \text{♩} = 128$

Dm C Bb A7

Dm C Bb A7

Dm C Bb A7b9

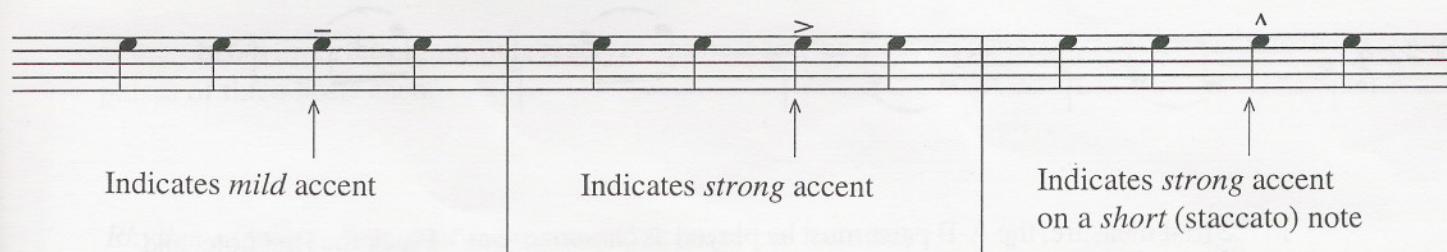
Dm C Bb A7 Dm

When a composite

When a composer marks a piece *staccato*, he is indicating that the notes should be played

Accents

Not all notes are created equal. Some are meant to be accented, or played more forcefully than others. There are three widely used accent symbols you must know:



The diagram shows three measures of a musical staff, each with a single note. The first measure has a horizontal line above the note, with an arrow pointing to it from below. The second measure has a greater-than sign (>) above the note, with an arrow pointing to it from below. The third measure has a caret (^) above the note, with an arrow pointing to it from below.

Indicates *mild* accent

Indicates *strong* accent

Indicates *strong* accent on a *short* (staccato) note

Play the following, paying strict attention to the accent markings.

without accents

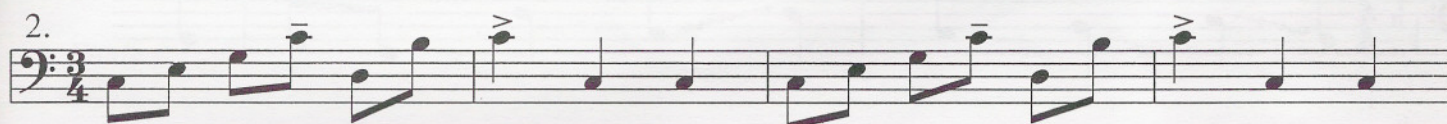
1.



A single line of musical notation in bass clef, 3/4 time. It consists of eight eighth notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, and G3. The notes are connected by a single slur.

with accents

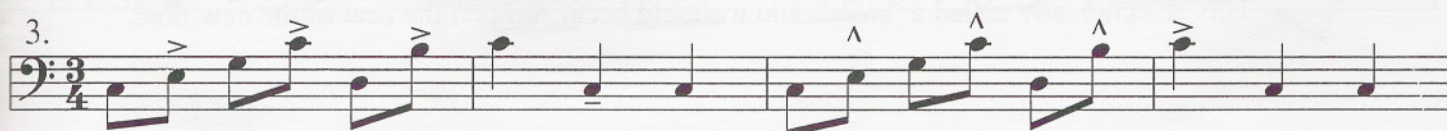
2.



A single line of musical notation in bass clef, 3/4 time. It consists of eight eighth notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, and G3. The notes are connected by a single slur. The first, third, and seventh notes have a horizontal line above them, indicating a mild accent.

with unusual accents

3.



A single line of musical notation in bass clef, 3/4 time. It consists of eight eighth notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, and G3. The notes are connected by a single slur. The first, third, and seventh notes have a greater-than sign (>) above them, indicating a strong accent. The fourth, fifth, and sixth notes have a caret (^) above them, indicating a strong accent on a short (staccato) note.

Slurs

When two notes of different pitch are grouped together with a tie, those two notes should be played with only one pluck of the right picking hand (or one bow stroke).

For example:



In the first measure, the A-B pairs must be played as "hammer-ons". Pluck the first note, and make the second note sound by bringing the appropriate new finger down hard on the string.

In the second measure, the B-A pairs must be played as "pull-offs". Pluck the first note while both notes to be played are being pressed to the fingerboard; then forcefully pull the original finger sideways off the string, causing the new note to sound.

Glissando

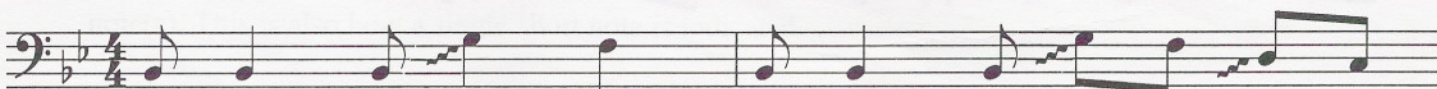
A *glissando* is a slide up or down the fingerboard which connects two notes. The "gliss" should take place just before the new note occurs rhythmically. It is indicated with a jagged line between the two notes:



These two notes must be played on the same string whenever possible.

A short, jagged line indicates that a note is to be "slid" into from a short distance below (how far is your decision).

This is technically called a "*slide*", and it should occur right *on* the beat of the new note.



MORE TIME SIGNATURES

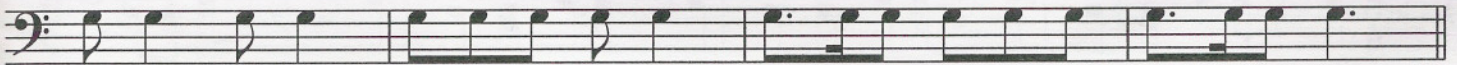
Here's a look at 6/8, 5/4, and cut time. These are fairly common time signatures that you are likely to encounter in professional situations. Of course, there are many others you may run into; hopefully by then, you'll have the savvy necessary to decipher anything put on paper.

In 6/8 time, the eighth-note receives one beat and the measure generally sub-divides into two pulses of three beats each.

Rhythm exercise: (set your metronome to 2 clicks per measure)

♩. = 76

The first staff of music is in bass clef with a 6/8 time signature. It begins with a quarter note on G2, followed by eighth notes on A2, B2, and C3. The next measure contains eighth notes on D3, E3, and F3, followed by a quarter note on G3. The third measure consists of a quarter note on A3, an eighth note on B3, and an eighth note on C4. The fourth measure contains eighth notes on D4, E4, and F4, followed by a quarter note on G4. The fifth measure consists of a quarter note on A4, an eighth note on B4, and an eighth note on C5. The sixth measure contains eighth notes on D5, E5, and F5, followed by a quarter note on G5. The seventh measure consists of a quarter note on A5, an eighth note on B5, and an eighth note on C6. The eighth measure contains eighth notes on D6, E6, and F6, followed by a quarter note on G6. The final measure consists of a quarter note on A6, an eighth note on B6, and an eighth note on C7.



Etude:

♩. = 80

Exercise 1



In 5/4 time, the quarter note receives one beat, and the measure generally feels like 3 plus 2.

Rhythm exercise:

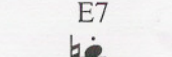
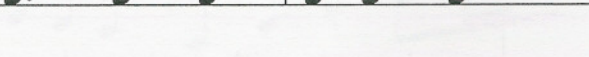


Etude:

Swing feel ♩ = 100

Two staves of music for an etude in 5/4 time with a swing feel. The first staff has four measures with chords Gm7, Ab6, Gm7, and Ab6. The second staff has four measures with chords Gm7, Ab6, Gm7, and C13.

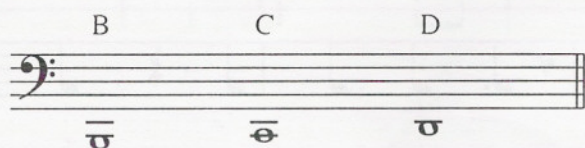
In *cut time*, the music is written just like 4/4, but is generally played twice as fast. Thus, the measure divides into two pulses instead of four.



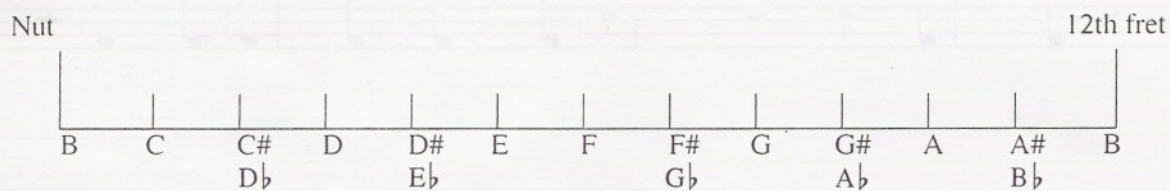
LOW "B" STUDIES

For 5- and 6-string basses

Here are the natural notes found in the lowest position on the B string:



Here is a fretboard diagram of B-string notes:



Etudes:

1.

Etude 1 is a piece of music in 4/4 time, written for the bass. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first measure, which starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are B, C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The second staff contains the second measure, which starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The notes are B, C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The piece ends with a double bar line.

2.

Etude 2 is a piece of music in 4/4 time, written for the bass. It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the first measure, which starts with a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are B, C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The second staff contains the second measure, which starts with a bass clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The notes are B, C, D, E, F, G, A, and B. The piece ends with a double bar line.

ADVANCED READING STUDIES

3.

Exercise 3 consists of four measures of music in bass clef, 6/8 time. The first measure contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure contains a half note C3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3. The third measure contains a half note F3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note A3. The fourth measure contains a half note B3, a quarter note C4, and a quarter note D4. The notes are written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 6/8.

4.

Exercise 4 consists of three measures of music in bass clef, 6/8 time. The first measure contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. The second measure contains a half note C3, a quarter note D3, and a quarter note E3. The third measure contains a half note F3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note A3. The notes are written on a single staff with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 6/8.

ADVANCED READING STUDIES

The following studies are scaled-down bass parts, the likes of which advanced amateur and professional musicians can expect to encounter in real-life playing situations.

Try, whenever possible, to *sight-read* each piece, even if you have to play it at a slower tempo than marked. When the notes start falling into place, gradually increase the tempo until you're playing it at the indicated speed.

Tape-record yourself playing these (and other) pieces with and without metronome accompaniment. On playback, you'll hear quite clearly where your strengths and weaknesses lie. Pay special attention to the *time feel*. No bassist can fully develop unless he/she has the ability to create a truly accurate *pulse*.

Med. Funk ♩ = 116

1. Dm

1st Ending

2nd Ending

Latin/ Funk ♩ = 132

2. C#m F#m

C#m

G#m

2. (cont'd) $F\sharp m$ $E6$

$C\sharp m$ D $C\sharp m$ D $C\sharp m$ D

$C\sharp m$ D $C\sharp m$

3. **Med. Swing** $\text{♩} = 120$

$E\flat$ $C7\flat 9$ $Fm7$

$B\flat 7$ $E\flat$ $C7$

$Fm7$ $B\flat 7$ $B\flat m$

$E\flat 7$ $A\phi$ $A\flat m7$ $D\flat 7$

$Gm7$ $C7\flat 9$ $Fm7$

$B\flat 13$ $E\flat$ $(*)$

* ferrata = *Fermata* (hold note until cut-off by leader or conductor)

4. Salsa/ Rock ♩ = 108

Chords: B $\flat$, G7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$, E $^{\circ}$, B $\flat$ /F, G7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$, G7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$, G7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$, E $^{\circ}$, B $\flat$ /F, F7, B $\flat$, D7, G7, C7, F7, B $\flat$, G7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$, G7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$, E $^{\circ}$, 1. F $\sharp$ sus7, B $\flat$, F $\sharp$ sus, 2. F $\sharp$ sus7, B $\flat$

Samba ♩ = 88

5.

Bm Em

C#ø F#7b9

Bm Dm7

G7 Cma7

C#ø F#7b9 Bm 1st

Cma7+11 Bm 2nd

Med. Rock ♩ = 100

Staccato

6.

A D F

G A D A D A D

Tacet (no chord) Tacet ^

A

(*)

* Strum this group of notes

Fast Funk ♩ = 138

7. **C7**

E♭7

A♭7 **A7** **B♭7** **B7** **C7**

E♭7

A♭7

C7

8. Funk Ballad ♩ = 66

Cm **Cm/ B♭**

F/ A **Fm/ A♭** **B♭7sus** **G7+/ B Cm**

Cm/ B♭ **F/ A** **F** **F#°** **Gsus** **B♭7sus**

E♭ma7 **D♭** **G7♭9** **Cm7** **F7**

8. (cont'd) B♭ m7 E♭ 7 A ∅ A♭ m7 D♭ 7

Gm7 C7 Fm7 B♭ 7sus G7+/ B Cm

9. Reggae/ Rock ♩. = 120 D7

Am F

E7 F E7 (*) 2 2

F E7 F Am (Fine)

* Duplet: fits into time-space of three regular notes

Swing '3' ♩ = 132

10.

Chords and notes in the score:

- System 1: Db Ma7 , Gb Ma7
- System 2: Db Ma7 , Gb M7
- System 3: Fm7 , Bb 7 , Eb m7 , Ab 7
- System 4: Db Ma7 , EMa7 , AMa7 , D7b 5
- System 5: Db Ma9 , Gb Ma9
- System 6: Db Ma9 , Gb Ma9
- System 7: Fm7 , Bb 7 , Eb m7 , Ab 7
- System 8: Db Ma7 , EMa7 , AMa7 , D7b 5
- System 9: Db Ma7 , EMa7 , AMa7 , D7b 5 , Db Ma7
- System 10: EMa7 , AMa7 , D7b 5 , Db

11. Salsa $\text{♩} = 126$

Chord progression: C, F, C, F, Db, Gb, Db, Gb, D, G7, C7.

(Fine) *

* Fine = ultimate ending

Fast Swing ♩ = 160 (♩ = 80)

12.

Chords and notes for measures 12-23:

- Measure 12: D7sus, Gma7, F#m7, B7
- Measure 13: Em, Dm7, Db7, C
- Measure 14: Bm7, E7, A7, D7
- Measure 15: Gma7, F#m7, B7, Em
- Measure 16: Dm7, G7, C, Cm7, F7
- Measure 17: Go7, Gma7, (New Key) Eb Ma7, C7
- Measure 18: Fm7, Bb7, Eb Ma7, Gb°7, Fm7, E7
- Measure 19: Eb Ma7, C7, Fm7, Bb7, B7sus, E7sus
- Measure 20: A7sus, D7sus, Gma7, F#m7, B7
- Measure 21: Em, Dm7, Db7, C

12. (cont'd) Bm7 E7 Am7 D7 Ab7 G

13. Country/ Pop ♩ = 112

F#

E D#m F# C# B 1st (*) 2nd

D#m G#m D#m7 G#m C#m F#7 B

F#sus C# D#m G#m D#m G#m

C#7 F#7 B

F# E D#m F# C# B ^

* = Double sharp/half-step higher than sharp note.

14. Calypso/ Rock ♩ = 100

Chords: G, D, G, G, G, D, G, Bm, E7, Am, D7, G, $\frac{G}{F}$, $\frac{C}{E}$, Eb, $\frac{G}{D}$, Ab7, G.

15. Funk '3' ♩ = 90 (Minor Blues)

Chords: Fm9, Bbm9, Fm9, Db6 9, Gø, C7b9+11, Fm9.

16. **Funk/ Samba** ♩ = 132
Tacet

DMa7+11

B♭ Ma7

Am7 $\wedge$

B♭ Ma7

Dma7 $\wedge$

B♭ Ma7

Am7 $\wedge$

B♭ Ma7

C6 $\wedge$

Tacet

DMa7+11

B♭ Ma7

(*)

Am7

B♭ Ma7

DMa7

B♭ Ma7

Am7

B♭ Ma7

C6

Tacet

DMa7+11(Lydian)

$\wedge$

* = approximate pitch

'Up' Swing $\text{♩} = 80$

17.

17. **'Up' Swing** ♩ = 80

Bb m7 Eb 7 Ab

Gø C7+ Fm

Bb m7 Eb 7 Cm7 Fm7

Bb m7 Eb 7 Ab

Bb m7 Eb 7 Ab

Gø C7+ Fm

Bb m7 Eb 7 Cm7 Fm7

Bb m7 Eb 7 Ab

* = Double flat/half-step lower than flat note.

BASS SOLO

Play with chordal background if possible

Swing ♩ = 144

18.

18. Fma7 Bb ma7 Am7 D7 Gm7 C7 F Gb7 A7 D7 G7 Db7 C7 FMa7 Bb Ma7 Am7 D7 Gm7 C7 F C7+ F A

DYNAMIC MARKINGS

In your music reading you will encounter symbols which instruct you how *loud* to play. These are usually letter symbols, as follows:

p = soft

mp = moderately soft

mf = moderately loud

f = loud

Doubling the letter symbol intensifies its effect, i.e.:

pp = very soft

ff = very loud

You may occasionally see them tripled:

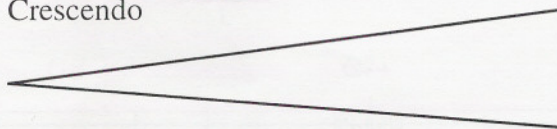
ppp = very, very soft

fff = very, very loud

Crescendo

A *crescendo* is an increase in playing volume. A *decrescendo* is a decrease in playing volume. These are written as follows:

Crescendo



(increase volume)

(These markings generally appear *under* the staff)

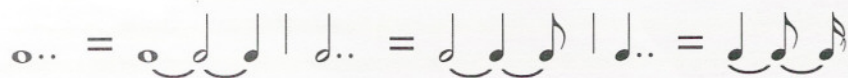
Decrescendo



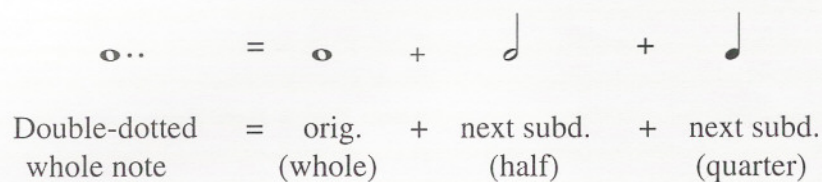
(decrease volume)

DOUBLE-DOTTED NOTES

Placing a double dot after a note multiplies its time-space value by $1\frac{3}{4}$.



In actuality, you simply add the *next 2* rhythmic subdivisions to the original note, i.e.:



AFTERWORD

I hope that you have made considerable progress with your music-reading skills by working through this book. It's important now that you continue to get involved in as many music-reading situations as possible so you will gain valuable experience and confidence in your abilities.

Music-reading is a very important skill which, when combined with *technique* and *theory*, will round out your professional capabilities.

May you continue to expand your musical horizons!